



VOX 29th Board Meeting

Monday 28th January 2013

The Renfield Centre, 260 Bath Street Glasgow

Present

Joyce Mouriki	Chairperson
Frank Fallan	Vice Chairperson
Dougie Pickering	Secretary
Gordon Johnston	Treasurer
Colin Murchie	Member Director
Pamela Shanks	Member Director
David Harrison	Member Director
John Sawkins	Member Director
Tracy Laird	Member Director
Richard Norris	Non Member Director

In Attendance

John Steel	Administration Officer
------------	------------------------

Apologies

Carol Mapley	Member Director
Dianna Manson	Member Director
Alex Davidson	Non Member Director
Alison Thom	Non Member Director
Wendy McAuslan	Development Coordinator

Welcome

Due to the unavoidable delay of Joyce, Frank took the chair and welcomed those present and expressed his good wishes to everyone for 2013.

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

The minutes of the last board meeting held on 26th November 2012 were formally adopted on the motion of Dougie and seconded by David.

Matters Arising

- a) John Sawkins was not present at the last meeting and had tendered an apology.

- b) David Harrison received his Induction pack as requested.
- c) Under AOCB it was noted that it was Carol Mapley and not Dianna who had withdrawn her name from the list to attend the IIMHL 2013 Conference.

Development Coordinator Update

Due to the unavoidable absence of Wendy, Joyce gave a brief report on the following items:

- a. Joyce gave a brief report on staffing levels and it was also mentioned that we would be employing another member of staff for one day a week.
- b. Joyce also reported on the organisations finances when discussion took place around unrestricted funds and decisions on over/under spending.

Directors Updates

- a) Joyce intimated that one organisation would be selected to progress Commitment One, Vox and Service User Research Network to provide a service user for research.
- b) Joyce also intimated that the Mental Welfare Commission has issued an invitation to VOX to attend the first meeting of their Advisory Committee to be held on 15th February in Edinburgh. The purpose of the Committee is to give advice and information on how the Commission can carry out its functions, strategic and business plans and how they can improve stakeholder feedback.
- c) John Sawkins intimated that the Royal College of Psychiatrists were looking at how to provide practical guidance for service users on how to write up an advance statement.
- d) Gordon gave a full report on his attendance at the meeting of the Psychological Therapies Group.
- e) Gordon also mentioned that there is a conference on the Patient Safety Programme at The Crowne Plaza Hotel on 14th February.
- f) It was noted with great enthusiasm and congratulations that Dougie Pickering has been appointed Co-Chair of the Royal College of Psychiatrists Service User Recovery Forum with effect from July 2013.

Financial Update

It was intimated that a financial update had been emailed by Wendy to Joyce and Gordon.

Independence Update

Due to the unavoidable absence of Wendy, it was decided that an independence update would in due course, be distributed to all board members.

IIMHL 2013

Following the selection process meeting held on 16th January the following members, Graham Morgan MBE and Penny Stenhouse, had been selected to represent VOX at the International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership 2013 Conference in Auckland New Zealand.

AOCB

- a) Board members took the opportunity to review the attendance of board members at board meetings and it was unanimously decided that in accordance with Article 75.8 of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, Dr Siddhartha Das Varma had regrettably been unable to fulfil his obligations as a board member and therefore the Directors resolved to remove him from office. John Steel was instructed to write to Dr Das Varma intimating our grateful thanks for his contributions and to wish him well in the future.
- b) It was agreed that a new Equalities Sub Group should be formed.

Next Meeting

The next board meeting will be held on Monday 25th February in the Cowcaddens Room, The Renfield Centre Glasgow at 1.00pm



**VOX 30th Board Meeting
Monday 25th February 2013
The Renfield Centre Glasgow**

Present	Frank Fallan	Vice Chairperson
	Dougie Pickering	Secretary
	Gordon Johnston	Treasurer
	John Sawkins	Member Director
	Carol Mapley	Member Director
	Tracy Laird	Member Director
	Colin Murchie	Member Director
	Richard Norris	Non Member Director
In Attendance	Wendy McAuslan	Development Coordinator
	John Steel	Administration Officer
Apologies	Joyce Mouriki	Chairperson
	Pamela Shanks	Member Director
	Dianna Manson	Member Director
	David Harrison	Member Director
	Alex Davidson	Non Member Director
	Alison Thom	Non Member Director

1) Welcome

Due to the unavoidable absence of Joyce Mouriki, the chair was taken by Frank Fallan who welcomed everyone present.

2) Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

3) Minutes of last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 28th January 2013 were formally adopted on the motion of Colin Murchie and seconded by Dougie Pickering.

4) Matters Arising

Dougie Pickering intimated that he had taken up his post as Co-chair of the Royal College of Psychiatrists Service User Recovery Forum in January 2013 and not July 2013 as previously reported.

5) Development Coordinator Update

The following update items were discussed:

Consultations

Commitment 2 (dates shall be confirmed over the next few days)

- Psychosis events, Edinburgh and Glasgow
- Bipolar events, central belt and outwith
- Anxiety and Depression, Highlands and Edinburgh/Perth

Workplace mental health focus group

- Scottish Union of Supported Employment (SUSE), 19th February 2013

Social Media/IT and Mental Health

- Questions have been developed, covering usage of social media and IT in both general mental health and clinical care. Dates to be arranged. Central Belt and Outwith.

Suicide and Self-Harm Engagement strategy

- We will develop some key questions (the engagement strategy is still being worked on it should be available from the 25th February) and ask our members these at the same time as the commitment 2 work.

Mental Health call for evidence (UK)

- Review of Service User reports; look for themes within VOX's and other group members' reports (Chris White)

Independence

- Review of Internal Policies, e.g. equal opportunities, IT and internet policy, volunteer policy to be finalised by the end of March 2013.
- Gordon Johnston, Dougie Pickering and Richard Norris to meet with Isabella Goldie regarding a letter of agreement between Mental Health Foundation and VOX with regard to independence.
- Discussion with MTC media regarding setting up VOX emails.

Strategic Influencing

- Meeting with Ian Nicol, Mental Health Law Team and Linda Pollock, Head of Policy, Tribunals Service. Discussion about the suggested ways forward for the tribunal system and how to maintain an independent chamber. Pros and Cons of Secondary and Primary legislation.
- Workplace Mental Health – See Me, national working group, represented views from a previous employment report 'better felt than telt' where barriers to work were highlighted by our members.
- They are looking to develop a strategic approach to workplace mental health.
- 'See Me' Review – telephone interview, University of Liverpool, Paul Corry and Prof David Pilgrim from the University of Liverpool to review the stakeholder group around *see me* looking at it and the wider anti-stigma and discrimination agenda in Scotland to see how its work might develop over the next few years in partnership with others. I took views mentioned at previous members meetings such as the importance of focusing on education/stigma within schools, the role

of the service user within anti-stigma campaigns, and the importance of recovery and stigma being aligned.

- Patient Safety, Mental Health Event, 14th February. Action to support service user representatives within board areas.
- Meeting with Alana Atkinson (Choose Life Programme Manager) and Geraldine Bienkowski (Lead for Psychological Therapies, NHS Education Scotland (NES)). Initially to discuss how we should ensure that the engagement strategy can engage with faith communities, also to consider future consultation/involvement for the psychological matrix work. Agreed in our response to the suicide and self-harm engagement strategy we would note our learning with faith communities in our response. It was also suggested that there may be a need to build capacity to carry out this work and that they would be supportive of us seeking funding to be able to provide the capacity required.
- Information regarding a previous survey monkey we carried out on psychological therapies has been sent to Geraldine, with a view to involving membership in the future on the matrix (to share information with service users on the purpose of the matrix)
- Kate McCormack, ADSW, adviser role. Team Manager - Mental Health, Caley Court Resource Centre.

Capacity Building/Members Meeting

- Aberdeenshire event, 23rd March 2013, venue Park Inn by Radisson Aberdeen Hotel, 1 Justice Mill Lane
- International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership (IIMHL), delegates matches have taken place, practical arrangements have been made. Report contents have been discussed/ expectations from VOX's perspective.
- A report from the last members meeting (winter festival meeting) has been produced, this covers safety, medication and choice, and how we involve our members/groups.

6) Diversity Facilitator Update

Diversity Program Activities

- Community Leadership Program: I have been approaching and meeting with various main stream equalities organisations and mental health service user lead groups interested in the Leadership program. Three mainstream organisations are now confirmed and will be linked in with three mental health service user groups. (See list below)
1. Older People Strand (Age Scotland linked with FDAMH)
 2. Young People Strand (Young Scott linked with ACUMEN)
 3. Minority Ethnic Women (Mental Health Network GGC linked in with AMINA Muslim Women's Resource Centre)

Each organisation will put forward two community activists to take advantage of the leadership program opportunity.

- Training: I have agreed a full training day for the community leaders delivered by the Scottish Community Development Centre & Community Health Exchange. See attached draft program. There will also follow a half day on basic research methods and a half day on mental health and diversity delivered by myself and colleagues from the Mental Health Foundation.
- Contracts: I have modified a standard MHF consultancy contract to act as a community leader template contract with a breakdown of tasks, outputs and schedule of deadlines for completing the work.
- Evaluation: I have sent some ideas to Comic reliefs education manager on what we should focus on in relation to evaluating the diversity program over the next three year and am awaiting to hear back from him.
- Domestic Abuse work strand: I have developed links with Women's Aid in Glasgow and am gathering information and stats on the situation. I have a meeting on the 26th with HUG members with lived experience of domestic abuse in Dingwall.
- Prisons: I have a meeting set up in March in South Lanarkshire Council with the Children and Justice Service Manager and Criminal Justice Service Manager.

7) Sub Group Updates

There were no sub group updates

8) Directors Updates

John Sawkins gave a report on the following meetings which he had attended along with Joyce Mouriki for the Mental Welfare Commission and Dougie Pickering for the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Meeting of the Mental Welfare Commission on Friday 15 February, COSLA building, Edinburgh.

Strategic Priorities:

1. Young people in secure care
2. People with dementia in mental health continuing care
3. Women offenders with mental illness
4. Specified persons* in low secure mental health care
5. People for whom recorded matters* were granted

John can provide further details if required.

Meeting of RCPsych on Thursday 21 February in Edinburgh

a) Tribunals

"First Tier" and "Upper Tribunal" were discussed. (These issues were addressed at other recent meetings attended by VOX directors). One additional point was the insistence on tribunal doctors being *licensed* as opposed to just registered to ensure that they have recent relevant experience.

b) Anti-depressants and anti-psychotics

From the debate in the Scottish Parliament, it had become abundantly apparent that political attitudes to this were split, with SNP / Labour coming across as more pro, whilst Tory / Lib Dems were advocating a reduction in the prescription of anti-depressants. Thus we had the remark that “you wouldn’t try to deprive a diabetic of insulin” at one extreme, against the perfectly reasonable suggestion that anti-psychotics can be overprescribed in care homes, or that disproportionately high suicide rates amongst young males in Scotland might just conceivably be down to the medication they are on.

One new angle that was addressed at the RCPsych meeting was the role of the media in all of this. It would appear that service users on anti-depressants in particular are being demonised by the press. I made the observation that whilst previously it was the Pharmaceutical Industry that was being called to account by the press, there had been a subtle change towards blaming the service-user. (One could speculate that this is all part of the Coalition’s drive to get people off welfare benefits.)

c) Trainees concerns

Scottish trainees find it disconcerting that much of their testing relates to UK practice rather than being about the Scottish system.

d) New chair.

Dr Peter Rice is coming to the end of his tenure of this office and his successor will be Dr Alistair Cook. One vacancy on the committee remains to be filled.

e) Clozapine

Concerns were expressed that patients should be advised of the impact of stopping smoking for patients on clozapine. Likewise, such patients arriving at A & E could present problems if the staff are not made aware of their medication.

f) Side effects

Where patients are not alerted to the known side-effects of medication, their onset can be very stressful and seriously impede potential recovery. For example, one lady who had been admitted under section found her stomach swollen and she started to lactate. She came to the perfectly reasonable assumption that she was pregnant, but was told simply that she was delusory! Doctors are working towards ensuring that all patients / carers receive a fact sheet about the medications they are on.

g) Out of hours working by psychiatrists

It was stated that this would not be happening in future: ironically, it is precisely during such hours that treatment is often needed.

h) Caps and Gowns

Despite the decision to dispense with such trappings, this issue had attracted more responses from the profession than what might seem rather more pressing issues such as medication. This was put down to the disappointment felt, especially though not exclusively, by the families of international students.

9. A.O.C.B.

In accordance with the VOX Memorandum and Articles of Association item 12, it was confirmed that “the Directors shall consider each application for membership at the first Directors meeting which is held after receipt of the application”

10. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Monday 25th March 2013 at 1.00pm, the Renfield Centre, 260 Bath Street Glasgow



VOX 31st Board Meeting

**Monday 25th March 2013
The Renfield Centre Glasgow**

Present	Dougie Pickering	Secretary
	Gordon Johnston	Treasurer
	John Sawkins	Member Director
	Dianna Manson	Member Director
	David Harrison	Member Director
In Attendance	Wendy McAuslan	Development Coordinator
	John Steel	Administration Officer
Apologies	Joyce Mouriki	Chairperson
	Frank Fallan	Vice Chairperson
	Carol Mapley	Member Director
	Colin Murchie	Member Director
	Pamela Shanks	Member Director
	Richard Norris	Non Member Director

1) Welcome

Dougie Pickering occupied the chair and welcomed everyone present.

2) Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3) Minutes

The minutes of the 30th board meeting held on 25th February 2013 were formally approved on the motion of Dougie Pickering and Gordon Johnston.

4) Matters Arising

There was no matters arising

5) Development Coordinator Update

Consultations

Case studies and questions have been produced.

- Psychosis events, Edinburgh (22nd April – caps psychosis project) and Glasgow (26th March, mental health network Greater Glasgow)
- Bipolar events, Edinburgh (27th March, Bipolar Scotland) and outwith (bipolar Aberdeen tbc – numbers low)
- Anxiety and Depression, Highlands (22nd March) and Edinburgh (tbc)

Action: Wendy to feedback initial findings to the board.

Workplace mental health focus group

- Scottish Union of Supported Employment (SUSE), 19th March 2013, rescheduled due to adverse weather conditions.

Social Media/IT and Mental Health

- Questions have been developed, covering usage of social media and IT in both general mental health and clinical care. Two sessions have taken place Glasgow 18th March, Dumfries 20th March, write up is currently taking place. To be fed into work ongoing within the Scottish Government. Two more focus groups shall be arranged.

Action: findings from the first two groups shall be written up and distributed.

Suicide and Self-Harm Engagement strategy

- Key questions and summary produced for members.

Action: VOX consultation findings to be updated to the board.

Mental Health call for evidence (UK)

- Review of Service User reports, report has been written and presented by Joyce Mouriki at the evidence session on the 19th March.

Action: Joyce to feedback on how the meeting went.

Independence

- Memorandum of understanding is in draft format.
- Focus on financial processes in terms of policy work

A number of questions were raised by board members:-

- Delay in achieving independence
- Financial approval from the board
- Approximate cost of events
- Cheque signing

Action: Wendy to progress and feedback.

Capacity Building/Members Meeting

- Aberdeenshire event, 23rd March 2013, venue Park Inn by Radisson Aberdeen Hotel, 1 Justice Mill Lane – update provided
- International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership (IIMHL), - written and verbal update have been received from one delegate.

Action: Wendy to get in touch with both delegates and discuss feedback process

Action: Aberdeen event to be written up and next steps (to be sent to delegates)

Staffing

- Two days of Amal Azzudin's time until the senior development coordinator post-holder can be back in post. Focus on social media/IT consultation and the newsletter.

6) Sub Group Updates

The Communications sub group met earlier today and the following items were discussed:-

- a) Coordinating information, e.g. facebook/Friday bulletin.
- b) Internal procedures e.g. social media policy supported by internal procedures.
- c) Patients' Council way of working in relation to issues such as suicide, also find out more about the Samaritans processes for social media.
- d) Refresh website (visual aspects)

7) Directors Update

Gordon Johnston gave a full report on his attendance at the meeting for Psychological Therapies and intimated that patients would be able to access psychological therapies in 18 weeks by 2014.

John Sawkins gave reports on the following:-

RGU Health & Social Care: Training of Social Science students.

I was invited to be interviewed by trainees and give feedback on their people skills (empathy etc). We discussed self-disclosure as an ice-breaker, with the caveat that we need to be conscious of maintaining professional boundaries.

RCPsych SU®F London Service User Forum (The word "recovery" to be removed).

International Congress of RCPsych this year is in Edinburgh 2-5 July.

Importance of treatment; "being supportive rather than punitive".

Pros and cons of telehealth: will it really be such a good thing for the patient? See

<https://www.wp.dh.gov.uk/publications/files/2012/12/Liberating-the-NHS-No-decision-about-me-without-me-Government-response.pdf>

Professional boundaries – 14 vignettes (case studies) where professionals are seen to have crossed the line.

Re: Jeremy Hunt's public face and private face: "Secretary of State Jeremy Hunt, whilst stepping up pressure on NHS bosses to end legal gags on NHS whistleblowers, has introduced legal gags on Healthwatch bodies, to prevent them from campaigning for better and safer services".

NHS correspondence via Dame Anne Begg from Lord Earl Howe, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health: "In the new NHS, competition between providers will be a means, not an end, to empower patients and staff, to drive

up responsiveness, outcomes and efficiency, and provide the best value for money for taxpayers". (It is assumed that the NHS will be effectively privatised from 1 April 2013. No NHS psychiatrists left in England.)

SMHAFF very successful last year: 15,000 attendees, 250 events, 17 regions across Scotland. Theme this year is "Reality". Suggested Film: "Running from Crazy"

SRN Conference

Some discussions:

- Why does it take so long to access services?
- How to change the World?
- Role of families/carers in supporting recovery.
- Lack of collaborative working.
- Social control / compulsory powers and impact on recovery.
- Responsibility of the Media in reporting mental health issues.
- Brain chemistry/genetics versus social/economic factors.
- Managed risk.
- Advantages/disadvantages of informatics.
- Brilliant inspirational speech by Rachel Perkins, keynote speaker.

Interesting multiple perspectives delivered via PechaKucha technique (Power Point slides on a timed loop). I was interviewed by person from Comic Relief.(JS)

RGU Student selection

Students were given a task to advocate for their chosen individual to receive kidney treatment. They had to then reach a compromise with others in their team, either reaching a conclusion or ending up with stalemate. It was very revealing of innate prejudices!

VOX Aberdeen

Very successful, challenging statements and ideas were discussed e.g. self-stigma can be an issue, why declare a mental health problem to anyone, importance of the context.

Graham Ogilvie's caricatures were excellent, encapsulating dilemmas and key statements. The band, "No hot ashes" went down well.

Those who attended wish to see a collective voice being developed within the area. A report will be written and sent to those who attended. Thanks to Graham Morgan and John Sawkins for making the event come to life.

Dianna Manson expressed her grateful thanks for the presentation of a lovely bouquet of yellow roses given to her following a recent spell in hospital. She provided

information on a number of projects such as the Edinburgh and Borders bipolar groups, and an interesting research paper on service children and mental health problems.

8) Any other competent business

- a) The board approved individual applications from 6 new members.

Action: - John Steel to write to confirm individual membership.

- b) It was unanimously agreed to accept an application from West Dunbartonshire Mental Health Forum for group membership of VOX.

Action: - John Steel to write and confirm group membership.

- c) It was agreed that VOX should hold a development day in the near future; final agreement should be made at the next board meeting.

9) Date and Venue of next meeting

Monday 29th April 2013 in the Kirk Lounge, Renfield Centre 260 Bath Street Glasgow G2 4JP at 1.00pm

VOX 32nd Board Meeting
Monday 29th April 2013
The Renfield Centre Glasgow

Present	Joyce Mouriki	Chairperson
	Dougie Pickering	Secretary
	Gordon Johnston	Treasurer
	Dianna Manson	Member Director
	Colin Murchie	Member Director
	David Harrison	Member Director
	John Sawkins	Member Director
	Carol Mapley	Member Director
	Tracy Laird	Member Director
	Richard Norris	Non Member Director
Apologies	Pamela Shanks	Member Director
	Alison Thom	Non Member Director
	Alex Davidson	Non Member Director
	Frank Fallan	Member Director
In Attendance	Wendy McAuslan	Development Coordinator
	John Steel	Administration Officer

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the board meeting held on Monday 25th March 2013, having been previously circulated, were approved on the motion of David Harrison and Dougie Pickering.

4. Matters Arising

- a) Feedback on Self – Harm and suicide discussion paper was provided including groups to be contacted and process of involvement.
- b) Mental Health Call for Evidence update was given, this is a report written which incorporates many VOX reports.
- c) Independence, update regarding the transfer of non-staff assets will be given as part of the development coordinators update.
- d) Aberdeen Event, report and meeting date shall be sent to participants.
- e) Communications Sub Group gave an update on key areas of development.

5. Development Coordinator Update

Consultations

Commitment 2 – role of the carer (from a service user perspective)

The following group have taken place

- Psychosis, Glasgow and Edinburgh
- Anxiety and Depression, Highlands
- Bipolar, Edinburgh

Still to take place, Bipolar (Glasgow, couldn't get enough involvement from Aberdeen bipolar), Anxiety and Depression, Edinburgh Patients Council, 15th May.

So far findings indicate members would like to see more active involvement of carers in their clinical care, and that by developing a plan when someone is well, (covering issues such as who should be able to communicate with clinical teams, agreed signs for carers to look out for) that this involvement could be effective in preventing someone from becoming more unwell.

Action: Wendy to contact Beth regarding an update on this work.

Social Media/IT and Mental Health

A range of views have been expressed including opportunities for how to utilise social media. Concerns over systems and confidentiality have been raised. Capacity building opportunities around using social media were also mentioned more information to follow. A report shall be written in the next few weeks.

Action: A short report capturing key themes shall be written

Suicide and Self-Harm Engagement strategy

VOX has carried out two focus groups, and will be running another two focus groups on this topic, a group in Perth on the 20th May and Glasgow on the 21st May.

The deadline for responses is the 28th May. Publicity for the focus groups shall be sent out shortly.

Action: VOX's response shall be sent to the Scottish government by the 28th May.

Capacity Building/Members Meeting

Aberdeenshire event, 23rd March 2013, a report shall be written and a meeting date (to begin a process of developing a local voice) shall be sent to those who participated.

Action: A report shall be circulated to the participants and the board.

International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership (IIMHL) Penny Stenhouse has agreed to deliver a presentation to board, and to involve VOX's general members in discussions on key learning which was taken back from the matches/conference (at the next members meeting). Written reports are in draft form. Graham Morgan is happy to do whatever we feel would be helpful in terms of sharing learning.

Facilitated Klacksun's Development Day, the aim was to work with their board members to identify key areas for the group to focus on over the next year; this has been written up and sent back to Klacksun.

Financial Independence

It is suggested that the office bearers meet with Isabella and I to complete the memorandum of understanding and progress this area.

Action: A meeting shall be held to progress.

Bank of Scotland Foundation

We have been awarded £392 from their matched giving scheme. This is a scheme which encourages colleagues from Lloyds Banking Group to get involved in the voluntary sector and fund raise or give time to charities.

Action: To be put into VOX's bank account

Strategic Work

See Me - The Scottish Government has invited expressions of interest to take forward the work which See Me has developed over the last few years. Part of the anticipated focus in the future is greater involvement within See Me of people who have or have had mental health, Hug had previously been involved in the service user component of See Me.

Graham Morgan from HUG and I have discussed the opportunity to come together to provide the service user involvement component, involving a range of service user led groups and individuals to see how they would like to see service user involvement within see me taking place. Funders have indicated that any bid must have a service user aspect to it and they would expect the winning bid to involve VOX/hug, so it is suggested we remain neutral, and note to funders we would be happy to have this joint way of working within any bid.

Self-Directed Support (SDS) Scottish Government funding, consortium bid, led by the Scottish Recovery Network (SRN) The aim of the project is to improve the capacity of mental health user led organisations to provide high quality, accessible, independent information and support to enable people to make genuine individual choices and to effectively promote self-directed support and independent living. VOX's role would be to support and test resources developed on SDS.

Networking

New Scottish government mental health advisers have been employed to progress areas of the mental health strategies commitments. Beth Hamilton has met with me to give me an overview of the work she will be involved, her 'bundle' of commitments include the following areas, Rights, Recovery, Families and Carers, Peer to Peer and Employability. She has invited VOX along to the Implementation group, chaired by Geoff Huggins, Head of the Mental Health Division.

6. Diversity Facilitator Update

Community Leadership Program

We have now recruited 3 Older People, 5 Young People and 6 Minority Ethnic Women who will be taking part in the leadership program.

Training:

On the 27th of March a full day of training was delivered to all 14 leaders by the Scottish Community Development Centre. The training was well received with very positive evaluation feedback. The next day of training has been organised for the 1st of May entitled "An Introduction to Research and Evaluation" which will be delivered by the Mental Health Foundation.

Contracts: To date Atousa Khodadadyan has been formally recruited as a sessional community leader for the Minority Ethnic Women's Strand.

Evaluation: Alongside comic relief we have agreed a draft tender document to recruit an external evaluator/consultant to support us in achieving the evaluation objectives for VOX given our current staffing and resources.

Domestic Abuse work strand

We have had a meeting with HUG members with lived experience of domestic abuse in Inverness and Dingwall, as a result of the meeting there is a group of 4 women who are already interested in forming a leadership group for next year and who have good links with the local women's aid refuge and other relevant support organisations. It is anticipated that we would look to start the strand in November.

Prisons

Mahmud has met with South Lanarkshire Council's Children and Justice Service Manager and Criminal Justice Service Manager. They will be approaching their team leaders to see if they have people in mind that may be interested in being involved in some form of initial focus group or consultation around their experiences.

Mahmud has also been in touch with Anne Hawkins who is the Chair of the prison healthcare network; Anne will be sharing our interest to the prison network in developing a pilot to support people with lived experience to have a voice in prison. David Thomson the National Coordinator for Integrated Care Pathways for Mental Health and Associate Inspector of Prisons is also on the network/group and the network manager will discuss with him how best to identify collaborators on this work.

Mahmud has also setup a meeting with the director of Positive Prisons Positive Future which is a charity lead by a group of people who have been through the criminal justice system and found it possible to change their lives in positive ways and avoid re-offending.

7. Directors Updates

Carol Mapley informed the board that Police Scotland has introduced Mental Health Training plus complimentary Mental Health First Aid for Probationary Police Officers.

John Sawkins reported on the following:-

- a) RGU 2nd Scottish Mental Health Nursing Research Conference 3 May 2013
- b) Information from the MHTS meeting held on 30 April at the Royal Cornhill Hospital

8. A.O.C.B.

Individual Membership Applications

John Steel reported that we have received nineteen individual applications forms for membership which were formally approved by the board.

9. Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting shall be the **29th July 2013**.



VOX 33rd Board Meeting
Monday 29th July 2013
The Renfield Centre Glasgow

Present	Joyce Mouriki	Chairperson
	Frank Fallan MBE	Vice Chairperson
	Dougie Pickering	Secretary
	Gordon Johnston	Treasurer
	John Sawkins	Member Director
	David Harrison	Member Director
	Carol Mapley	Member Director
	Colin Murchie	Member Director
	Tracy Laird	Member Director
	Richard Norris	Non Member Director
In Attendance	Wendy McAuslan	Development Coordinator
	John Steel	Administration Officer
	Beth Hamilton	Scottish Government
Apologies	Dianna Manson	Member Director
	Pamela Shanks	Member Director
	Alison Thom	Non Member Director

1. Welcome and meeting with Beth Hamilton

Joyce opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present with a particular welcome to Beth Hamilton who works for the NHS as an Advisor at the Mental Health and Protection of Rights Division of the Scottish Government.

Introductions were made round the table after which Beth talked a little about her career at the NHS, and breadth of experience, then gave a presentation on her work with the Scottish Government, outlining the Mental Health Strategy and the following Commitments which she is accountable for progressing:-

1. Patient Centredness
2. Carer and Service User Involvement
3. Peer Support
4. Stigma
5. Rights

6. Employability

On behalf of everyone present Joyce thanked Beth for the very enlightening and thought provoking presentation. Some of the board members then took part in a short question and answer session.

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting, having been previously circulated, were formally approved on the motion of David Harrison and seconded by Dougie Pickering.

4. Matters Arising

Carol Mapley advised the board that Police Scotland have been considering a training programme utilising Mental Health First Aid. The board agreed that a letter should be sent to Police Scotland requesting a copy of their policy on mental health

Action: Wendy to draft a letter regarding mental health training/importance of the police having the skills and knowledge on this topic.

5. Development Coordinator Update

Wendy McAuslan gave a run-down of the following items:-

Consultations

Commitment 2 – role of the carer (from a service user perspective)

A verbal update was provided to Beth Hamilton and Frances Simpson (support in mind), we shall be progressing a meeting to involve relevant people to progress main findings. This will focus on a broader advance statement type document to involve carers.

Action: Wendy to continue to develop work on commitment 2

Suicide and Self Harm - Engagement strategy, VOX's response was sent to the Scottish government, it had been informed by focus groups on this topic.

Tribunal response – VOX's official response to the set-up of mental health tribunals (in relation to any change in the future going through primary or secondary legislation) has been written in draft form, and we hope our response supports the notion that the system remains in a strong position and less open to changes which may have a negative impact.

Action: Wendy to progress

Capacity Building/Members Meeting

Aberdeenshire event, this report has been written and is in the process of being sent to participants.

Action: Wendy to progress/arrange date in September to move forward Aberdeenshire work.

Members meeting

John has booked the venue, the Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow for Monday the 9th September.

Wendy has arranged to meet with the accountants, and has started to write an annual report. The programme of the day was clarified, topics such as see me, the international initiative of mental health leadership and impaired decision making could be table discussions.

Action: Wendy to arrange facilitators and prepare agenda/annual report etc

Staffing

An update was provided on the staffing situation.

A meeting has been arranged to realign job descriptions to match changes which have taken place in relation to increased responsibilities.

Financial Independence

A date has been arranged to progress, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been redrafted and Isabella and Wendy have discussed and worked through how the finances would be divided.

Action: The board were happy for this to be progressed and for the draft MOU to be accepted

Strategic Work

See Me

HUG and VOX have been talking to a range of members led mental health groups to gather views on this topic. The focus was around how to involve individuals who have, or have had, mental health problems within the 'see me' programme of work.

Self-Directed Support (SDS)

Wendy has met with Louise from the Scottish Recovery Network to look at how best to move forward SDS. She has mentioned potential opportunities for how to progress.

Networking

Wendy met with Dan Fisher and some individuals for dinner on the 26th June. Dan is a prominent service user/psychiatrist from America who aims to develop the Emotional Components of Recovery; he aims to promote emotional CPR (eCPR) which he has developed.

It is suggested that we discuss the concepts behind emotional CPR with our members (possibly at our AGM) to see how they feel about it, in particular if we would like to be involved in developing something similar in Scotland.

Further discussion took place regarding the proposal that eCPR should be introduced in Scotland and there was a general consensus that this type of therapy could be taken forward and that in particular, VOX should be the main facilitating organisation. It was

also agreed that all the relevant issues should be discussed over a period of time and not as a matter of urgency. It was suggested that this issue could be on the agenda for our annual conference and AGM.

Other issues

VOX has commissioned Bright Purpose for the evaluation work of VOX's diversity strand. They will also look at overarching policies, and shall help us to think through how we deal with difficult situations and complaints. This shall hopefully help us to develop tools and practice to ensure the wellbeing of staff, directors and members.

Action: Wendy to ensure Bright Purpose incorporates the wellbeing/difficult situations work within the evaluation.

Interrelate

It was discussed and agreed that VOX should invite Graham Morgan MBE to be our representative to the International Coalition of National Consumer/User Organizations.

Action: Wendy to ask Graham if he would be interested in taking on this role.

6. Directors Updates

Colin Murchie intimated that the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland had visited the Highland Users Group and gave a very interesting presentation.

Gordon Johnston gave a very full report on his attendance at a meeting of the Psychological Therapies group including the Patient Safety programme, the Delivery Group for Mental Health and the Patient safety Tool.

Dougie Pickering gave a report on meetings with the Royal College of Psychiatrists along with John Sawkins

Carol Mapley gave a report on her attendance at Police Scotland's critical events training and asked if any board member would be interested in attending one of these events. Anyone interested to speak with Carol. Carol also gave a report on the Police Scotland Stakeholders Conference which was also attended by Amal Azzudin on behalf of VOX.

Frank Fallan MBE gave a report on welfare reform and reshaping care for older people.

7. AOCB

Membership

John Steel intimated that since the last meeting we had received another 5 individual membership applications, these were approved by the board. The total membership at present is as follows:

Individual Members	381
Group Members	14
Associate Members	8

8. Annual General Meeting

It was formally announced that this year's Conference and Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 9th September in The Grand Central Hotel Glasgow from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next board meeting will be held on Monday 26th August 2013 in The Renfield Centre, 260 Bath Street Glasgow at 1.00pm.



**VOX 34th Board Meeting
Monday 26th August 2013
The Renfield Centre Glasgow**

Present:	Joyce Mouriki	Chairperson
	Dougie Pickering	Secretary
	Gordon Johnston	Treasurer
	David Harrison	Member Director
	Carol Mapley	Member Director
	Colin Murchie	Member Director
	Dianna Manson	Member Director
	John Sawkins	Member Director
In Attendance	Wendy McAuslan	Development Coordinator
	John Steel	Administration Officer
Apologies	Frank Fallan MBE	Vice Chairperson
	Pamela Shanks	Member Director
	Tracy Laird	Member Director
	Derek Barron	Advisor

1. Welcome

Joyce Mouriki welcomed everyone present.

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the last board meeting held on 26th August 2013, have been previously circulated, were formally adopted on the motion of Colin Murchie and Dougie Pickering.

The wording for the emotional CPR (page 3) was amended to “the emotional CPR shall be progressed by taking the concept to the members meeting and developing a clear process if adopted”

It was also clarified that the wording for interrelate (page 4) should be changed to “we should review whether our links to interrelate are still being progressed by Laura Caven and progress thereafter by either replacing Laura if she feels she does not have the

capacity and/or supplementing her input with an individual from the board and or a general member with specific interest and ability to communicate regularly with the board”

4. Matters Arising

- a) Letter to Police Scotland requesting their policy on mental health has been written and is in in draft format, we shall progress further after the AGM
- b) Richard and Joyce had produced a response to the call for evidence on health and social care integration built upon the feedback already given to the government directly by Wendy and Joyce to The Deputy Director of Health and Social Care Integration Kathleen Bessos and by the board to the other government team members.
- c) It was also clarified that the wording for interrelate (page 4) should be changed to “we should ensure that our links to interrelate are still being progressed by Laura Caven and progress thereafter”
- d) Letter to Police Scotland requesting their policy on mental health has been written and is in in draft format, we shall progress further after the AGM
ACTION: Carol, Joyce & Wendy to progress.
- e) Diversity work – it was noted that it would be good to get an update on this area of work.
ACTION: Wendy to invite Mahmud Al-Gailani to attend next board meeting to discuss the Prisons Project, and the diversity work more generally.

5. Development Coordinator Update

Wendy gave a rundown on the following items:

Audit

Information on income and expenditure for 2012-2013 has been sent to Tenon accountants, they will shortly request further information to carry out the audit.

Staffing

Wendy has prepared a draft advert, and job description. There are a few areas in which requiring clarification from the board (regarding hours, salary and essential criteria).

A meeting with Isabella to progress the Development Coordinator job review (to realign with how the development coordinator post has changed over the last 6 years) had to be cancelled – this needs to be rescheduled.

ACTION: Wendy, Gordon Johnston & Dougie Pickering to progress the job description and person specification.

Action: Gordon, Joyce and Isabella to progress job review.

Consultations/members views

Smoke Free– outdoor areas of psychiatric hospitals being reconsidered (this was previously an exemption). Wendy has been liaising with our group members regarding this and considering how we could progress.

DWP work capability assessments – facebook request for examples of people's experiences.

Action: The draft response to DWP shall be ratified by a group of volunteers from the board (after the board meeting).

Commitment 2 – role of carers – first steering group meeting to move this work forward is planned for the 27th August. Wendy shall update with progress.

Tribunals' system consultation – discussion with Ned Sharratt regarding VOX's response to the consultation, Ned is a clerk for the Justice Committee in the Scottish Parliament.

Capacity Building

Aberdeen Meeting – date set for the 18th September to progress the capacity building in Aberdeen.

6. AGM

Annual report – I have outlined the main areas to be included from funding updates, and Amal is currently working on the wording.

7. AOCB

- a) A draft agenda has been produced for the Annual General meeting on 9th September 2013
- b) We have received four individual applications for membership, three of which were approved and one to be returned to applicant for further completion.
- c) It was agreed to hold the members meeting on Saturday 2nd November 2013 in Stirling, Venue and times to be confirmed.
- d) It was requested that consideration be given to having deputies for VOX Representatives on outside groups. This should be progressed over the coming months.

8. Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday **23rd September 2013**



VOX 35th Board Meeting
Monday 23rd September 2013
The Renfield Centre Glasgow

Present:	Joyce Mouriki	Chairperson
	Dougie Pickering	Secretary
	Gordon Johnston	Treasurer
	John Sawkins	Member Director
	Pamela Shanks	Member Director
	Dianna Manson	Member Director
	Colin Murchie	Member Director
In Attendance:	John Steel	Administration Officer
Apologies:	Frank Fallan MBE	Vice Chairperson
	Carol Mapley	Member Director
	David Harrison	Member Director
	Lisa Archibald	Member Director
	Dr. Alison Thom	Non Member Director
	Kate McCormack	Advisor
	Derek Barron	Advisor
	Wendy McAuslan	Development Coordinator

1) Election of Office Bearers

The following Office Bearers were elected for the year 2013 – 2014

Chairperson: Joyce Mouriki
Proposed by Dougie Pickering and Colin Murchie

Vice Chairperson: Frank Fallan MBE
Proposed by Joyce Mouriki and Pamela Shanks

Secretary: Dougie Pickering
Proposed by Joyce Mouriki and Colin Murchie

Treasurer: Gordon Johnston
Proposed by Colin Murchie and Dianna Manson

2) Minutes

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on Monday 26th August 2013, having been previously circulated, were formally adopted on the motion of Colin Murchie and Dougie Pickering.

3) Matters Arising

The following items were mentioned:-

- a) Legal opinion regarding member's vexatious complaints to be sought as suggested by Dougie Pickering.
- b) The board requested a regular Diversity Facilitator Update.
- c) The importance of appropriate communications in all board meetings and actions and an allocation of appropriate responsibilities to act for and communicate on behalf of the board on any topics. The eCPR cited as an example.

4) Development Coordinator Update

The following items were discussed:-

- Financial hand-over of non-staff expenditure
- Amended VOX draft financial procedures policy – to be ratified/adopted
- Bank account changes to signatories put on hold until we received report on progress with finances.

a) Development officer Post

Gordon Johnston reported that the advert and job description details have been discussed and agreed by himself Dougie Pickering and Wendy McAuslan and the advert is ready to go.

- b) Evaluation** - Brighter Purpose have been engaged and will discuss with Wendy McAuslan the outline of the work

ACTION; Wendy McAuslan will come to the board to agree details and the inclusion of vexations.

c) Capacity Building work

Aberdeen Feedback from first development meeting. John Sawkins gave an update on progress in Aberdeen.

d) AGM/Annual Conference

Report to be written on the feedback from workshops.

Evaluation, 93% found the day met their expectations. People found the day interesting, well organised and a good opportunity to share ideas. There were some difficulties with one individual who caused one of the sessions to be halted. Review of this may be helpful to prevent future difficulties. This will be incorporated into our evaluation work. Joyce Mouriki talked to the director of SIAA and has assured that contact is anticipated
Action; Joyce Mouriki and Wendy McAuslan to compose a letter to the lady telling her that she has been linked into advocacy services and that the SIAA are awaiting her call.

5) Directors Updates

The following Directors gave reports since the last board meeting:

Joyce Mouriki intimated she would invite Shaben Begum, the director of SIAA to talk to us as we have been engaged until now with the government group on advocacy and this group has now funded a pilot to look into the quality of advocacy provision.

Some adverts have been circulated for individuals to take on the role of evaluators and Shaben has been invited to the next board meeting to have a pre meeting to discuss VOX's role in the oversight committee for this work

Action; Joyce Mouriki to invite SIAA

John Sawkins gave a full report on the event held in Aberdeen including:

- a) People having to pay for Psychological Therapies
- b) People speaking of ill treatment by police
- c) Possibility of police taking up posts in hospitals

John also spoke regarding correspondence with Anne Begg MSP regarding Lobbying and mental health unnecessary deaths.

Police Training –we are still awaiting Carol Mapley telling us when the Police Scotland Training Posts are filled and then she and Wendy McAuslan will redraft the letter as appropriate.

Action; Carol Mapley and Wendy McAuslan re draft letter

eCPR, it was agreed that there was a general consensus at the annual conference that this could be a useful tool. A general discussion then took place regarding eCPR and suggestions were made that VOX should take a lead role in this venture with regard to a small financial investment in training. Concerns were raised about the end product and what happens after people are trained up.

ACTION: Joyce Mouriki and Wendy McAuslan to compose a letter to go to Dan Fisher and Geoff Huggins stating VOX's position in relation to taking this forward. This letter to be agreed with Carol Mapley and John Sawkins as they both wish to take this forward on behalf of VOX

Dianna Manson spoke on the subject of self-carers being now recognised after evaluation conducted in Lothian

Gordon Johnston intimated that the patient safety work continues. He has been asked to attend and speak at the International Conference on Quality Improvement at a session where he will be able to describe the central role VOX played in the creation of the patient safety tool.

Another issue raised by board members was the spare room subsidy and the impact on those with mental health issues.

6) Applications for Membership

It was reported that we had received a total of nine individual membership applications which were subsequently approved.

ACTION: John Steel to write to the individuals concerned.



**VOX 36th Board Meeting
The Renfield Centre Glasgow
Monday 28th October 2013**

Present	Joyce Mouriki	Chairperson
	Dougie Pickering	Secretary
	Gordon Johnston	Treasurer
	Carol Mapley	Member Director
	David Harrison	Member Director
	Colin Murchie	Member Director
	Dianna Manson	Member Director
	John Sawkins	Member Director
	Richard Norris	Non Member Director
In Attendance	Wendy McAuslan	Development Coordinator
	John Steel	Administration Officer
	Shaben Begum MBE	Director
		Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance
Apologies	Lisa Archibald	Member Director
	Frank Fallan	Vice Chairperson
	Derek Barron	Advisor

1. Welcome

Joyce Mouriki extended a warm welcome to the members and staff present and extended a special welcome to Shaben Begum MBE who gave a presentation about the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance, at the end of which it was decided that John Sawkins would represent VOX on the SIAA Reference Group and Colin Murchie to act as Deputy if agreed with SIAA

Action: JM to seek clarification from SIAA project team about numbers required.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 23rd September 2013, having been previously circulated, were formally adopted on the motion of Dianna Manson and Dougie Pickering.

3. Matter Arising

The following items were discussed:-

- a) Consultation on the Mental Health Act.

- b) Letter to two of our members regarding advocacy with SIAA.
- c) Police Scotland Training letter.
- d) Police Scotland regarding education on Mental Health.
- e) ECPR, Carol Mapley and John Sawkins to follow up.

4. Development Coordinator Update

The following items were discussed:-

a) Future Funding - Next three years core (Scottish Government) grant

The Scottish Government Grant Application has to be in by the end of November. It would be helpful to have two or three people to get involved. We also need to update our business plan as this also has to be provided alongside the application. We can utilise the last development day we held to provide a basis for the business plan as this covers some of the main areas of work.

Action: WMcA to contact board and set up meeting to take this forward. GJ and RN expressed an interest.

b) Financial hand-over of non-staff expenditure

- Delay in obtaining SG funding, Mental Health Foundation are waiting for this to come through to allow for handover of non-staff expenditure, should be any day.
- Bank account changes to signatories still to take place. We can still sign cheques in the meantime via the other three signatories.

Action: JM to bring in banking papers for revision at next board meeting

c) Staffing to be covered later under HR (board members only)

d) Senior Development Officer

- The advert had been placed in the Herald, the Guardian, the Big Issue and S1 jobs. Interview dates/shortlisting dates had been arranged.
- Potential of additional support from the mental health foundation team had been offered for the next few weeks. This could include support with administration, and/or development work.

Action; WMcA/JM to follow up with MHF

e) Block grants/links to Self-directed support

Draft letter written – and discussed, concerns over SDS leading to cuts in mental health service provision.

Action: WMcA to send to Alex Davidson and other board members for comment.

Action: WMcA to invite AD to the board to present on SDS as per his email.

f) Evaluation - Bright Purpose

We have discussed our current monitoring processes/systems etc with the brighter purpose team and while acknowledging that the main areas to be evaluated are within our diversity work we have also asked them to cover areas such as dealing with difficult situations/vexatious complainants and the associated issues around ensuring general wellbeing of all VOX members/staff/directors.

Stakeholder interviews are part of the process and will be undertaken by the team in the near future.

Logic modelling is the suggested way forward in terms of producing an organisational business plan and this approach will be used to attach to the business plan.

A wider workshop approach may be used to develop this approach.

g) Consultations/Developments

Emotional CPR – way forward paper/financial investment in training

Smoking – psychiatric wards exemption of ban to grounds (potential removal)

Action point WMcA to keep on the agenda until this can be progressed by wider consultation.

Impaired decision making and eating disorders (use of significantly impaired decision making ability tool (SIDMA)) – event on the 15th November 2013 being held by the Mental Welfare Commission.

Action point: WMcA/JM to seek participants and to contact MWC re other methods of engagement digital stories etc. etc.

Blue badge consultations, we have received some members' feedback about this.

Action point: WMcA to keep under review.

h) Capacity Building work

Aberdeen Feedback from first development meeting. Next date for this group is the 27th November.

Action point: WMcA/JS : To work with Daniella Clark of Advocacy Aberdeen to progress.

i) Winter Festival Meeting, date TBA.

j) Strategic Meetings

- Mental Health Strategy Implementation Group: Involvement, Recovery, Stigma, Rights & Responsibilities on 27th September 2013 focussed on peer support, non-paid)
- Commitment 2 – family and carers group.
- Abertay steering group for mental health nursing. Meeting re-mental health nursing, 31st November 2013

Action point: WMcA to arrange to get local cover for this meeting if possible

Peer Support Meeting (SRN), 4TH December

5. H. R.

At this point the Development Coordinator and the Administration Officer were asked to leave the meeting.

New arrangements re recruitment and consultant support to advise board on time limited piece of work re full independence pathway. These arrangements agreed by all

Action point: JM to liaise with MHF to take forward all new arrangements

Date and time of next meeting.

**12.30pm for 1.00pm till 3.30pm on Monday 25th November 2013
St Stephens Church 260 Bath Street Glasgow.**



**VOX 37th Board Meeting
The Renfield Centre
260 Bath Street, Glasgow**

Monday the 25th November 2013

Present

Joyce Mouriki	Chairperson
Frank Fallan	Vice Chairperson
Dougie Pickering	Secretary
Gordon Johnston	Treasurer
Carol Mapley	Member Director
Colin Murchie	Member Director
Richard Norris	Non-Member Director

In attendance

Wendy McAuslan	Development Coordinator
----------------	-------------------------

Apologies

John Sawkins,	Member Director
Dianna Manson,	Member Director
Lisa Archibald,	Member Director
David Harrison,	Member Director

1. Welcome

Joyce welcomed everyone to the meeting; apologies were given as noted above.

2. Minutes

The minutes were formally adopted by Dougie and Colin.

3. Matters Arising

Joyce clarified that the SIAA had felt that one VOX representative would be sufficient, it was therefore decided that John should be the representative for the SIAA reference Group.

Wendy has held a meeting to develop the business plan and the Scottish Government grant fund application.

It was agreed that Carol could become the new VOX representative for Abertay nursing group.

It was confirmed that the winter members meeting would take place on **Saturday the 25th January**.

In terms of recruitment for the senior development coordinator the company “right ethos” is progressing. They shall select candidates who match the person specification and help us move towards the interview stage. Interviews shall take place in December.

Wendy had passed on the letter regarding SDS to Alex Davidson and will progress thereafter.

4. Development Coordinator Update

Grants/Funding

Next three years core (Scottish Government) grant

The Scottish Government Grant Application is in draft format.

The business plan is based around key outcomes and relates to a logic model. This is in draft format also, feedback is being incorporated. To be completed by the end of November.

Action: Wendy to finalise

Diversity Programme

Discussion took place around the diversity programme; Wendy gave some feedback about the work around domestic abuse, prisons and the community leader strands.

Action: Mahmud shall give a verbal update at the January board meeting.

Staffing

Shortlisting is taking place on the **10th of December**, and interviews will take place on the **17th December** for the Senior Development Coordinator

Action: Interviews and shortlisting to be progressed by Joyce, Wendy, Gordon and Isabella.

Block grants/links to Self-directed support

A draft letter has been written.

Action: Wendy to progress.

Evaluation - Bright Purpose

Theory of Change Workshop – date required, it is suggested we have a **development day instead of the March board meeting (24th March)** and tag on a ‘theory of change workshop’ (developing a model for how we monitor and evaluate) on the **25th March**.

Action: Wendy to progress.

Capacity Building work

Aberdeen’s next ‘have a voice meeting’ is taking place on the **27th November**.

Members meeting

The date for the new-year celebration meeting is still to be set, suggested dates **25th January (tbc)**, Golden Lion, Stirling.

Action: Wendy and John to progress.

5. Directors Updates

Dougie gave an update on the International Congress that the royal college of psychiatrists are holding in June 2014. Dougie mentioned that the service user and carer speech on “what we want from psychiatrists” would come straight after the presidents opening keynote speech

Joyce mentioned that VOX have been asked to be involved in the mental welfare commissions’ recruitment of their new Chief Executive and that the mental health cross party group has a new chairperson, Alistair Cook.

Joyce gave an update on commitment 1 of the mental health strategy (the review of mental health services), she informed everyone that VOX would be involved in the development of this area of work which will be led by a mixture of clinician/psychiatrists and an individual/s with lived experience. A draft advert has been developed to recruit those who will be involved in reviewing mental health services.

An update was given around the climate tool, it was stated that the highlands area had not been keen on the climate tool, and that there had been some uncertainty from service users and others.

Colin mentioned he would speak to HUG regarding this from the service user perspective to find out more.

A long discussion took place about the business plan; notes were taken to capture the key thoughts which included links to other policy documents.

Action: Wendy shall amend the business plan as suggested.

6. Date of the next meeting

The next date has been set for Monday **27th January 2014**